

C. Takahashi, et al Does Not Show Claimed Invention **AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 25 MAY 2006**

The secondary reference of Takahashi, et al was cited in addition to Xu to reject Claims 5-7. However, Takahashi shows the use of a first cylinder and a second cylinder group as is shown in the "Abstract." Therefore, the mechanical structures of Takahashi and Xu are similar, but Takahashi increases the temperature of a downstream catalyst, as is stated in the summary of the invention, column 1, line 66 through column 2, line 3. This is different than the invention as claimed in Independent Claim 1 and Claims 5-7 dependent thereon.

Again, the alternating operation of the entire engine between lean combustion mode and rich combustion mode for predefined periods of time is different than operating groups of cylinders at different operating parameters as is shown in Takahashi and Xu.

CONCLUSION

None of the references cited by the Examiner shows the alternate operation of the engine between a lean combustion mode and a rich combustion mode as specifically claimed in Independent Claim 1. For the reasons given herein above, Independent Claim 1 and Dependent Claims 2 through 9 have the "inventive step." Authorization is hereby given to charge any fee deficiencies to Account No. 500808.

Respectfully submitted,

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